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Socialists Make Incendiary Proclama-

tions at Fete. St. Petersburg, Dec. 19.-The emperor's fete day passed without any untoward demonstrations in St. Petersburg, but there was a marked continuation of the Moscow disorders, though not so serious as on Sunday. A feature of the Moscow demonstration was the distribution of violent proclamations of the social democratic labor party. Other demonstrations are reported from various localities, Congovernment to repressive measures just when a liberal regime is inaugu-

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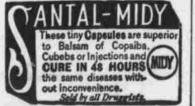
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**************** The Disturbing Element

By John Barton Oxford

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The naturalist was vaguely disturbed. He paddled back to camp slowly with a listless stroke, as if he were prone to turn back. Now and then he ceased paddling and gazed thoughtfully through the darkening underbrush of the woods.

Red twilight was falling, and against the fisming western sky the tree tops made sharp, black sithouettes. Beneath the pines the blue-black shadows were deepening. Counties voices drifted out to him drowsly on the still air, but the naturalist gave un heed to the sublimity of the approaching forest night nor did he hear the gentle drone into which the myriad voices blended themselves.

The only vision his eyes beheld was that of a smiling, graceful girl waving a white hand to him from the sloping bank by the camp, and the only sound servatives are afraid the ill-advised in his ears was her merry laughter as course of exterminists will drive the she stood by her father's side and shouted a goodby.

It was because of this that the naturalist was vaguely disturbed. Hereto-fore the woods and their occupants had chained his every thought. Now he was aware that every primary thought centered about the girl and that everything else was but a sorry second to

The naturalist had been in the woods all winter. It was his intention to correct several fallacies -- absurd, but none the less popular-concerning the beaver. With this idea in mind he had built a camp on the upper waters of the Little Otter, within easy reach of several promising beaver dams, and here he and his two guides had passed the winter. A very profitable winter the naturalist had considered it, for by close observation he had proved beyoud the shadow of a doubt that the beaver was much maligned in the popular science of the day. He was busily preparing a book to be brought out in the early summer giving the beaver his due and undeceiving that portion of the reading public which thirsts for natural history in a popular vein.

In the late spring, when the naturalist was writing the last few chapters of his book, Colonel Strong had come up to the Little Ofter for trout and salmon. The colonel's camp was a mile below the naturalist's-a distance inconsequential to so strong a paddler as the latter. The colonel had brought with him his daughter, a tactful,



charming girl, with a frank enthusiasm for the wilderness in general and the Little Otter in particular.

Since Miss Strong's advent into the wilderness the beavers had suffered gross neglect. Those last few chapters of "The Beaver as He Really Is" progressed but slowly. The naturalist sought his desk only late at night or at odd hours in the early morning. The rest of the time he was at the colonel's

He took Miss Strong to the beaver dama to explain to her the intricacies of their construction; he taught her the best casts for trout and salmon; he paddled her to the salmon holes up and down the stream. And all this time a realisation grew upon the naturalist that the woods and their occupants were not sufficient to his hap-

Three weeks went by all too quickly. HANDKERCHIEF CARNIVAL The colonel had announced his intention to start for home two days later. initialed silk handkerchiefs just © As the naturalist paddled homeward in the red twilight he became suddenly the red twilight he became suddenly aware that two days later the woods would be quite different. This great, calm, comforting forest would become a bateful, sterile desert without Miss Strong. The naturalist dug his paddle viciously into the water. "Great Scott! This imbedie mooning must be stopped here and now!"

He hurried the remaining distance back to camp and endeavored to concentrate his mind on the long neglected conclusion of his book. But concentration is difficult when the forest is enshrouded in a soft spring night. After an hour's fruitless labor the naturalist stalked down to the bank

said many things about beavers that

lished work. He sat on the bank until the round moon, nearing the full, came creeping above the tree tops. Then

he suddenly arose with the nir of a man considerably startled.

"Good heavens," he said, with odd anxiety in his voice, "I'm in love with the girl!"

Two minutes later the canoe slid noiselessly into the water, and the naturalist paddled down stream with unseemly haste.

As he came around the bend above the colonel's camp he saw the girl sitting quite alone before a smoldering fire near the bank. He paddled to the bank and pulled up his canoe.

The girl gave him a gay welcome. "But you said when you left at sun set that you'd been neglecting your beavers," she reminded him. "Aren't

you neglecting them now?" "Yes, I am," said he. "I'm com pletely out of harmony with every thing here. A disturbing element has crept into the wilderness.

The girl raised her brows. "It's you," said the naturalist short

"I?" she questioned "Yes, you," said be. "The forest used to be sufficient to me. Now it

"I'm sorry," she said quietly.
"And I'm not," said he, with vehe

She turned and regarded him archly. "Remember," she said, quoting a for-mer remark of his, "The heaver has been grossly misrepresented."

"Let him continue to be," said the naturalist. There was silence for a moment

Then the naturalist came nearer the fire and stood looking down at the "I wish I were a post instead of a

scientist," said be. "Why?" she asked. "I want to tell you I love you, and scientific research doesn't seem to

qualify one for such an undertaking." he said. The girl laughed nervously. She

studied the toe of her shoe for a pe-"It might not be so flowery as poetry but if-if it were scientific it would be exact, wouldn't it?"

The naturalist had one regret. As know how.

His Deenomy.

Senstor Jim Fair had two marked characteristics-concmy and love o joking. He never forgot frugality in his extensive business, and he even made his own economy a subject for humar.

Once while puttering around over the Comstock he slipped and started feet first down a deep, narrow shaft. There was a long, continuous wooden ladder reaching to the bottom, with its every twelfth rung of iron to strengthen the structure. Down this he sped.

"When I found myself slidin' down toward the center of the earth," said the senator, who used to enjoy telling the story, "I thought it was time to begin doin' somethin', so I commenced to grab at the ladder rungs. As I went down I broke every single one of them wooden sticks. This checked the speet of my fall, and I landed 'bout a thousand feet below, badly shook up.

"But what did you do when you came to the iron rungs?" he was asked. "Oh, I just skipped 'em. Couldn't afford to break 'em. Wood was cheap, but tron was then durned dear on the Comstock."-Sau Francisco Call.

A Joeuler Clergyman.

The Rev. Matter Byles of Boston. who preached there in 1776, one fast day effected an eschange with a country clergyman and each went on horseback to the appointed place. They met by the way, and Dr. Byles no sooner saw his friend approaching than he put sputs to his horse and passed him at full gallop. "What is the matter?" cried the other in astonishment. "Why so fast, Brother Byles?" Brother Byles shouted over his shoulder, without slackening speed, "It is fast day!" One day when he was busy in nailing some list upon his doors to exclude the cold a parishioner called to him, "The wind bloweth where it listeth, Dr. Byles!" "Yes, sir," replied the doctor, "and man listeth where the wind bloweth." He was once arrested as a Tory, convicted and sentenced to confinement on board a guardship to be sent to England with his family in forty days. A sentinel was placed over him. He was removed, replaced and again removed. "I have been guarded, regarded and disregarded," said the doctor. He spoke humorously of his sentinel as his "observe-a-Tory."

No Need to Brag.

"Sir," began a creditor who met one of his victims in the street, "I sent you a bill in January."

"Yes, sir.' "And again in April." "Yes, sir."

"And again in July." "Yes, sir." "And I presume you received one the other day."

"I did, sir." "Well, sir; well, sir?" flustered the creditor.

"Well, you needn't feel so stuck up over it," replied the other as he lighted a cigar. "There are firms in this town who send me bills every month in the year, and they never stop me in the street to brag about it either. I detest such egotism, sir. Good morning."--of the stream and lighted his pipe. He | Tit-Bits.

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GIRL WANTED - DINING ROOM work at Astoria hotel. Inquire Mrs.

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THE ORIGINAL JOHN A. MOLER has opened one of the famous barber colleges at 644 Clay st., San Franchant a "Te Deum," but he didn't positions granted; tuition earned while learning. Write correct number, 644 Clay st., San Francisco,

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LOST-A SET OF FALSE TEETH between the Parker house and Duane street. Will the finder please leave at the Astorian office?

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For sale-At Gaston's feed stable, No. 105 Fourteenth street; one Landle's harness machine; one Smith-Premier typewriter; one 20 hp motor and belting; 1000 good sacks.

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Notice for Bids. Rids will be received until Saturday, December 24, 1904, at 11 o'clock a. m. for building 42 net racks at the Occident and Columbia canneries. Plans and specifications can be seen at the office of the Columbia River Packers' Association. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids.

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Notice. All persons having bands of the La Imperial and La Veras cigars must turn them over to the members of the committee not later than Saturday, December 24, at 1 o'oclock p. m. sharp. For further particulars see commit-

ee. By order. Committee CIGARMAKERS' UNION.

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